

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 12, 14 and 15 are objected to because of the formalities.

Claims 1, 3-7, 10-12 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nigon et al US 6549125.

Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nigon et al and Nakada JP 11308738 A as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Nagatsuma US 4316374.

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nigon et al and Nakada as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Ballyns US 5699041.

Claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nigon et al in view of Albinski DE 19626144.

Nagatsuma is a method of manufacturing seemless wheel rims. Particularly, it sets out a method for creating a motorcycle wheel rim having a projection 27 for attaching spokes or spoke plates. It has little to do with the claimed subject matter, other than presenting a wheel rim. The examiner states that this reference teaches that known rims have a concave surface when viewed in cross-section, according to Fig. 6, but then uses this reference to teach a convex surface when combined with Nigon. The examiner's point here is unclear.

Nigon is a mechanical structure for fastening a device to a wheel rim using mechanical studs. This has little relevance to the claimed invention, which sets out a special shape for use in bonded connections, where the shape is critical to bonding surface area and resultant strength. In contrast, a device fastened with a stud, according to Nigon, is not dependent on surface area for strength, because all of the forces are generated through the stud, regardless of surface shape. Also, the examiner acknowledges that this reference requires numerous differently shaped members, which teaches away from the presently claimed invention.

Nakada is a connector holder for connecting adjacent corrugated electrical wire conduit pieces together. This structure is in an art area far afield from automotive wheel applications. The environment of a conduit is static, completely different from the high

stress, dynamic environment of the inside of an automotive tire/wheel combination. One skilled in the art would not be motivated to seek out and utilize features from a conduit device when seeking a solution to an automotive wheel application. The cited reference sets out a connector which lies on the outer circumference of two adjacent corrugated conduits, and is held against them by wrapping adhesive tape around the connector and the conduit to hold the connector to the conduit. The connector is bendable, and in the installed condition is fastened in such a manner as to put as much of its concave surface in contact with the outside surface of the corrugated conduit as possible by virtue of the adhesive tape pulling and to some extent desirably bending the connector against the conduit. No adhesive is used between the connector and the conduit, and the strength of the connection depends on the physical contact of the surface areas. In contrast, the presently claimed invention sets out a structure which facilitates the bonding of an object to a wheel rim by creating an optimal region for a bonding material to exist and interact with the bonded surfaces.

The examiner mentions McGlaughlin '007. This reference sets out a tire condition monitoring system, but fails to set out the structure of the presently claimed invention relating to the special shapes of the bonded surfaces.

Ballyns is a structure relating to a sensor having a special arrangement of diaphragms which act to variously prohibit and allow the flow of electrical signal current. The teaching in this reference does not combine with the other references to arrive at the special shapes presently claimed. The language relating to listing various broad methods of providing mounting means is not particularly relevant to the presently claimed structure.

Albinski discloses an electrical module connected to a wheel rim by virtue of its connection and interaction with a valve body. This teaches away from the presently claimed invention, which specifically avoids any interconnection with a valve body.

Applicant has added new claims 21 and 22 and has enclosed \$ 100 for the new claims.

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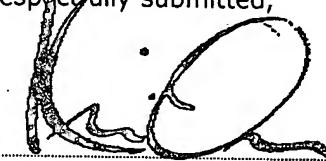
CONCLUSION

Applicant asserts that all of the Examiner's objections have been obviated, and therefore now respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections and allowance of the application.

PETITION FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE TERM

Applicant hereby petitions for a three-month extension of the term for reply from 9 January 2008 to and including 9 April 2008. Submitted herewith is a check for \$525 to cover the cost of the extension. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account Number 04-2219, referencing our Docket Number 14234.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on 9 April 2008.

Sarah Wang